

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner **(1)** rejected claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,120,180 to Graumann (i.e., the “180 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,622,187 to Carol (i.e., the “187 patent”); and **(6)** found claims 2-4, 6 and 7 to be directed toward allowable subject matter.

In response, Applicant respectfully submits that it appears that the Examiner has overlooked newly added claims 10-15, which claims were added via a preliminary amendment filed in conjunction with the national stage entry of the pending application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of such newly added claims.

Concerning item **(1)** identified above, Applicant respectfully submits that present claims 1, 5, 8 and 9, effectively traverse the stated rejection thereof, and that claims 10-15 are likewise patentable over the art of record.

With respect to item **(2)** above, Applicant respectfully expresses appreciation for the finding of allowable subject matter relative to claims 2-4, 6 and 7. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that each the present pending claims are likewise directed to allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, in view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Hence, Applicants respectfully and earnestly solicit a

Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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